

10/13/98  
jc549 U.S. PTO

PATENT

Docket No. 1418-40

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

### NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of  
Inventor(s): Olivier HERBAUT

jc135 U.S. PTO  
09/17/189  
10/13/98

**WARNING:** Patent must be applied for in the name(s) of all of the actual inventor(s). 37 CFR 1.41 and 1.53(b).  
For (title): AIR BAG COVER

#### 1. Type of Application

This new application is for a(n) (check one applicable item below):

- ☒ Original  
☐ Design

**WARNING:** Do not use this transmittal for a completion in the U.S. of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4) unless the International Application is being filed as a divisional, continuation or continuation-in-part application.

**NOTE:** If one of the following 3 items apply then complete and attach ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF A PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION CLAIMED

- ☐ Divisional  
☐ Continuation  
☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP)

#### 2. Benefit of Prior U.S. Application(s) (35 USC 120)

**NOTE:** If the new application being transmitted is a divisional, continuation or a continuation-in-part of a parent case, or where the parent case is an International Application which designated the U.S., then check the following item and complete and attach ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S) CLAIMED.

- ☐ The new application being transmitted claims the benefit of prior U.S. application(s) and enclosed are ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S) CLAIMED.

#### CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

I hereby certify that this New Application Transmittal and the documents referred to as enclosed therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date Oct. 13, 1998 in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mailing Label Number EM508631960US addressed to the: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231

John S. Egbert

(Type or print name of person mailing paper)

(Signature of person mailing paper)

**NOTE:** Each paper or fee referred to as enclosed herein has the number of the "Express Mail" mailing label placed thereon prior to mailing. 37 CFR 1.10(b).

3. Papers Enclosed Which Are Required For Filing Date Under 37 CFR 1.53(b) (Regular) or 37 CFR 1.153 (Design) Application

8 Pages of specification

2 Pages of claims

1 Pages of Abstract

2 Sheets of drawing

☐ formal

☒ informal

☒ in triplicate

NOTE: The Notice of October 7, 1985 (1059 O.G. 38-39) states the following: "Submission of Drawings —For your convenience and for more effective handling of any drawing corrections which may be necessary, please DO NOT SUBMIT ORIGINAL DRAWINGS WITH PATENT APPLICATIONS. DO SUBMIT THREE HIGH QUALITY COPIES. If the copies submitted pass the formality review and patent examination, no substitute drawings will be necessary. If corrections are necessary, they should be made to the original drawings. Either a good copy of the corrected drawings or the corrected original can then be submitted after the Notice of Allowability is mailed." The Notice of November 25, 1985 (1061 O.G. 12) further clarifies the submission of drawing practice by pointing out that the copies that are submitted to the office must be on strong, white, smooth and non-shiny paper and also points out that drawings for patent applications do not need to be submitted on bristol board.

4. Additional papers enclosed

- ☒ Preliminary Amendment
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement
- ☐ Form PTO-1449
- ☐ Citations
- ☐ Declaration of Biological Deposit
- ☐ Special Comments
- ☐ Other

5. Declaration or oath

☐ Enclosed

executed by (check all applicable boxes)

☐ inventor(s).

☐ legal representative of inventor(s). 37 CFR 1.42 or 1.43

☐ joint inventor or person showing a proprietary interest on behalf of inventor who refused to sign or cannot be reached.

☐ this is the petition required by 37 CFR 1.47 and the statement required by 37 CFR 1.47 is also attached. *See item 12 below for fee.*

☒ Not Enclosed.

**WARNING:** *Where the filing is a completion in the U.S. of an International Application but where a declaration is not available or where the completion of the U.S. application contains subject matter in addition to the International Application the application may be treated as a continuation or continuation-in-part, as the case may be, utilizing ADDED PAGE FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION CLAIMED.*

☐ Application is made by a person authorized under 37 CFR 1.41(c) on behalf of *all* the above named inventor(s). The declaration or oath, along with the surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.16(e) can be filed subsequently.

**WARNING:** *It is important that all the correct inventor(s) are named for filing under 37 CFR 1.41(c) and 1.53(b).*

☐ Showing that the filing is authorized. (*Not required unless called into question. 37 CFR 1.41(d).*)

## 6. Inventorship Statement

**WARNING:** *If the named inventors are each not the inventors of all the claims an explanation, including the ownership of the various claims at the time the last claimed invention was made, should be submitted.*

The inventorship for all the claims in this application are:

☒ The same

or

☐ Are not the same. An explanation, including the ownership of the various claims at the time the last claimed invention was made,

☐ is submitted

☐ will be submitted.

## 7. Language

**NOTE:** *An application including a signed oath or declaration may be filed in a language other than English. A verified English translation of the non-English language application and the processing fee of \$26.00 required by 37 CFR 1.17(k) is required to be filed with the application or within such time as may be set by the Office. 37 CFR 1.52(d).*

**NOTE:** *A non-English oath or declaration in the form provided or approved by the PTO need not be translated. 37 CFR 1.69(b).*

☒ English

☐ non-English

☐ the attached translation is a verified translation. 37 CFR 1.52(d).

**NOTE:** *37 CFR 1.52(d) "An application may be filed in a language other than English. A verified English translation of the non-English language application and the fee set forth in § 1.17(k) are required to be filed with the application or within such time as may be set by the Office."*

## 8. Assignment

☒ An assignment of the invention to Plastic Omnium Auto Interieur

☐ is attached

☒ will follow

## 9. Certified Copy

Certified copy(ies) of application(s)

(Application Transmittal [4-1]—page 3 of 6)

09170189 101398

France	97/13.319	20 October 1997
(country)	(appln no)	(filed)
(country)	(appln no)	(filed)
(country)	(appln no)	(filed)

from which priority is claimed

- ☐ is(are) attached  
☒ will follow

**WARNING:** The foreign application forming the basis for the claim for priority must be referred to in the oath or declaration. 37 CFR 1.55(a) and 1.63

**NOTE:** This item is for any foreign priority for which the application being filed directly relates. If any parent U.S. application or International Application from which this application claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 is itself entitled to priority from a prior foreign application then complete item 17 on the ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S) CLAIMED.

#### 10. Fee Calculation

- A. ☒ Regular application

CLAIMS AS FILED			
Number filed	Number Extra	Rate	Basic Fee \$790
Total Claims — 20 =	X	\$ 22.00	
Independent Claims — 3 =	X	\$ 74.00	
Multiple dependent claim(s), if any		\$230.00	

- ☐ Amendment cancelling extra claims enclosed  
☐ Amendment deleting multiple dependencies enclosed  
☐ Fee for extra claims is not being paid at this time

**NOTE:** If the fees for extra claims are not paid on filing they must be paid or the claims cancelled by amendment, prior to the expiration of the time period set for response by the Patent and Trademark Office in any notice of fee deficiency 37 CFR 1.16(d)

Filing Fee Calculation \$ 790

- B. ☐ Design application  
(\$290.00—37 CFR 1.16(f))

Filing Fee Calculation \$

#### 11. Small Entity Statement(s)

- ☐ Verified Statement(s) that this is a filing by a small entity under 37 CFR 1.9 and 1.27 is(are) attached

Filing Fee Calculation (50% of A or B above) \$

**NOTE:** Any excess of the full fee paid will be refunded if a verified statement and a refund request are filed within 2 months of the date of timely payment of a full fee 37 CFR 1.28(a)

12. Fee Payment Being Made At This Time

☒ Not Enclosed

☒ No filing fee is to be paid at this time. (*This and the surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.16(e) can be paid subsequently.*)

☐ Enclosed

☐ basic filing fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ recording assignment - \$40.00  
(37 CFR 1.21(h)(1)) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ petition fee for filing by other  
than all the inventors or person  
on behalf of the inventor where  
inventor refused to sign or cannot  
be reached. (\$140.00; 37 CFR  
1.47 and 1.17(h)) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ for processing an application with  
a specification in a non-English  
language. (\$26.00; 37 CFR 1.52(d) and  
1.17(k)) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ processing and retention fee  
(\$100.00; 37 CFR 1.53(d) and 1.21(l)) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: 37 CFR 1.21(l) establishes a fee for processing and retaining any application which is abandoned for failing to complete the application pursuant to 37 CFR 1.53(d) and this, as well as the changes to 37 CFR 1.53 and 1.78, indicate that in order to obtain the benefit of a prior U.S. application, either the basic filing fee must be paid or the processing and retention fee of § 1.21(l) must be paid within 1 year from notification under § 53(d).

Total fees enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

13. Method of Payment of Fees

☐ check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ charge Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. A duplicate of this transmittal is attached.

NOTE: Fees should be itemized in such a manner that it is clear for which purpose the fees are paid. 37 CFR 1.22(b).

14. Authorization to Charge Additional Fees

WARNING: If no fees are to be paid on filing the following items should not be completed.

WARNING: Accurately count claims, especially multiple dependent claims, to avoid unexpected high charges, if extra claim charges are authorized.

☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the following additional fees by this paper and during the entire pendency of this application to Account No.

☐ 37 CFR 1.16 (filing fees)

☐ 37 CFR 1.16 (presentation of extra claims)

NOTE: Because additional fees for excess or multiple dependent claims not paid on filing or on later presentation must only be paid or these claims cancelled by amendment prior to the expiration of the time period set for response by the PTO in any notice of fee deficiency (37 CFR 1.16(d)), it might be best not to authorize the PTO to charge additional claim fees, except possibly when dealing with amendments after final action.

☐ 37 CFR 1.16(e) (surcharge for filing the basic filing fee and/or declaration on a date later than the filing date of the application)

☐ 37 CFR 1.17 (application processing fees)

(Application Transmittal [4-1]—page 5 of 6)

09170189-101398  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**WARNING** While 37 CFR 1.17(a), (b), (c) and (d) deal with extensions of time under § 1.136(a) this authorization should be made only with the knowledge that: "Submission of the appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.136(a) is to no avail unless a request or petition for extension is filed." (Emphasis added) Notice of November 5, 1985 (1060 O.G. 27)

- ☐ 37 CFR 1.18 (issue fee at or before mailing of Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.311(b))

**NOTE** Where an authorization to charge the issue fee to a deposit account has been filed before the mailing of a Notice of Allowance, the issue fee will be automatically charged to the deposit account at the time of mailing the notice of allowance 37 CFR 1.311(b)

**NOTE** 37 CFR 1.28(b) requires "Notification of any change in loss of entitlement to small entity status must be filed in the application . . . prior to paying, or at the time of paying, . . . issue fee" From the wording of 37 CFR 1.28(b) (a) notification of change of status must be made even if the fee is paid as "other than a small entity" and (b) no notification is required if the change is to another small entity

**15. Instructions As To Overpayment**

- ☐ credit Account No  
☐ refund

Reg. No. 30,627

Tel. No. (713) 223-4034

  
SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY

John S. Egbert

Type or print name of attorney

1018 Preston, Suite 100

P.O. Address

Houston, Texas 77002

- ☐ Incorporation by reference of added pages

Check the following item if the application in this transmittal claims the benefit of prior U.S. application(s) (including an international application entering the U.S. stage as a continuation, divisional or C-I-P application) and complete and attach the ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S) CLAIMED

- ☐ Plus Added Pages For New Application Transmittal Where Benefit Of Prior U.S. Application(s) Claimed

Number of pages added \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Plus Added Pages For Papers Referred To In Item 4 Above

Number of pages added \_\_\_\_\_

- ☒ Statement Where No Further Pages Added

If no further pages form a part of this Transmittal then end this Transmittal with this page and check the following item

- ☒ This transmittal ends with this page

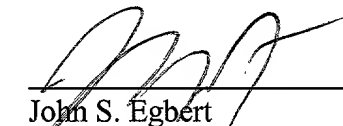
sections of the application.

The Abstract has been amended so as to conform with U.S. requirements.

Applicant respectfully requests that the present Amendment be entered prior to an initial Official Action on the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

10-13-98  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John S. Egbert  
Reg. No. 30,627  
Attorney for Applicant

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(713)223-4873 (Fax)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Olivier HERBAUT

SERIAL NO.:

FILED: Herewith

TITLE: AIR BAG COVER

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In conjunction with the filing of the present application, and prior to an initial Official  
Action on this matter, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE TITLE

On page 1, line 1, before "The present invention" insert a Title as follows --AIR BAG  
COVER--.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, line 7, before "The present invention" insert --TECHNICAL FIELD--.

On page 1, line 7, before "There are presently" insert --BACKGROUND ART--.

On page 1, line 11, delete "said".

On page 1, line 25, delete "function .." and insert therefor --function.--

On page 2, line 2, delete "said".

On page 3, line 1, before "The present invention" insert --SUMMARY OF THE  
INVENTION--.

On page 3, line 3, delete "said".

On page 3, line 4, delete "said".

09170189-10360260



On page 3, line 5, delete "characterised by the fact that:" and insert therefor --in which--.

On page 3, line 6, delete "said".

On page 3, line 9, delete "said".

On page 3, line 10, delete "said".

On page 3, line 11, delete "said".

On page 3, line 12, delete "said".

On page 3, line 14 delete "said".

On page 3, line 19, delete "said".

On page 3, line 20, before "The invention" insert --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

On page 3, line 29, before "The present invention" insert --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--.

On page 4, line 5, delete "said".

On page 4, line 6, delete "said".

On page 4, line 10, delete "said".

On page 4, line 11, delete "said".

On page 4, line 13, delete "said".

On page 4, line 15, delete "said".

On page 4, line 16, delete "said".

On page 4, line 17, delete "said".

On page 4, line 19, delete "said".

On page 4, line 20, delete "said".

On page 4, line 21, delete "said" (first and second occurrences).



On page 6, line 13, delete "said".

On page 6, line 14, delete "said".

On page 6, line 15, delete "said".

On page 6, line 16, delete "said".

On page 6, line 17, delete "said".

On page 6, line 18, delete "Velcro" and insert therefor --VELCRO (TM)--.

On page 6, line 24, delete "said".

On page 6, line 25, delete "said".

On page 6, line 29, delete "said".

On page 6, line 30, delete "said".

On page 7, line 1, delete "said".

On page 7, line 3, delete "said".

On page 7, line 4, delete "said" (first and second occurrences).

On page 7, line 5, delete "said".

On page 7, line 6, delete "said" (first and second occurrences).

On page 7, line 7, delete "Velcro" and insert therefor --VELCRO (TM)--.

On page 7, line 8, delete "said".

On page 7, line 9, delete "the" and insert therefor --the--.

On page 7, line 9, delete "said".

On page 7, line 10, delete "said".

On page 7, line 12, delete "said".

On page 7, line 13, delete "said".

On page 7, line 14, delete "said".

On page 7, line 16, delete "said" (first and second occurrences).

On page 7, line 17, delete "consist, as shown, of" and insert therefor --include--.

On page 7, line 18, delete "said".

On page 7, line 19, delete "said".

On page 7, line 22, delete "said".

On page 7, line 24, delete "said".

On page 7, line 25, delete "said".

On page 7, line 27, delete "said".

On page 7, line 28, delete "said".

On page 7, line 30, delete "said".

#### IN THE CLAIMS

In Claim 1, line 2, delete "including" and insert therefor --comprising--.

In Claim 1, line 4, delete "characterised by the fact that:" and insert therefor --wherein--.

In Claim 2, line 1, delete "in which" and insert therefor --wherein--.

In Claim 3, line 1, delete "in which" and insert therefor --wherein--.

In Claim 4, line 1, delete "in which" and insert therefor --wherein--.

In Claim 5, line 1, delete "in which" and insert therefor --wherein--.

In Claim 6, line 1, delete "in which" and insert therefor --wherein--.

In Claim 7, line 1, delete "in which" and insert therefor --wherein--.

In Claim 8, line 1, delete "including" and insert therefor --comprising--.

In Claim 9, line 1, delete "including" and insert therefor --comprising--.

In Claim 10, line 1, delete "in which" and insert therefor --wherein--.

### IN THE ABSTRACT

On page 11, line 2, delete "The present invention relates to a" and insert therefor --A--.

On page 11, line 4, delete "means (3)" and insert therefor --a mechanism--.

On page 11, line 4, delete "said".

On page 11, line 4, delete "means (4)" and insert therefor --a mechanism--.

On page 11, line 5, delete "said".

On page 11, line 6, delete "According to the invention:".

On page 11, line 7, delete "-- The" and insert therefor --The--.

On page 11, line 7, delete "said".

On page 11, line 9, delete "shapping" and insert therefor -- shaping--.

On page 11, line 11 , delete "said fixing means (4)" and insert therefor --fixing mechanism--.

On page 11, line 12, delete "said".

On page 11, line 13, delete "-- The said fixing means (4) are" and insert therefor --The fixing mechanism is--.

On page 11, line 15, delete "said" (first and second occurrences).

On page 11, lines 16 - 18, delete "The present invention also relates to an item of inside trim for a vehicle including such a cover (1). Figure 1.".

### REMARKS

The present Preliminary Amendment has been entered for the purpose of placing the application into a more proper U.S. format. In particular, certain grammatical and idiomatic inconsistencies have been corrected by amendment to the specification.

The specification has been amended so as to add the proper headings before the various

The present invention relates to a cover for an inflatable bag or cushion type retaining device, as well as to an item of inside trim for a vehicle including such a cover.

Although more especially intended to equip lateral retaining devices, it  
5 can also be used with retaining devices located in other parts of a vehicle, such as, in particular, the dashboard, the seats or other parts.

There are presently known inflatable bag or cushion type retaining devices provided in the area of the dashboard, the door panels and/or the seat backs.

10 They use rigid covers, obtained by injection moulding, integrated in the panels of materials that surround them. The said covers are provided in the mass of weakened zones the failure of which enables the cover to open when the retaining devices are triggered.

There are also known inflatable bag or cushion type retaining devices  
15 provided in the area of the windscreen posts, the front and/or rear bottom runners, the upper central support and/or the rear quarter. They are designed to deploy to form a bolster-shaped bag or cushion suspended in the area of the side windows of the vehicle.

Very often, the covers of these devices are provided with a decorative  
20 covering made of synthetic materials (thermoplastic sheets, knitted, woven or non-woven fabric) to form a lining piece.

In this case, problems are posed in connection with the tear strength of the decorative material in the weakened zone of the covers. The lining piece then has to be removed completely to enable the retaining device to  
25 function..

Complex, costly systems for swinging and retaining the lining piece upon the triggering of the retaining system have thus been developed. Sometimes, even, the proximity of the vehicle occupant precludes the use of such devices and, as a result, one is faced with an impossible situation.

30 Soft trim, or covering, elements of textile material having a seam provided in the mass in the area of the weakened zone to permit their failure

have also been developed. When the inflatable bag or cushion type retaining device is triggered, the said seam is sectioned through the effect of the expansion of the device and thus permits deployment.

It is found, however, that this solution restricts the choice of materials  
5 that can be used. These must, indeed, be tearable. In addition, after triggering, the covering element is destroyed, thus precluding any re-use.

The object of the present invention is to provide a cover for an inflatable bag or cushion type retaining device that overcomes the aforementioned drawbacks.

10 Another object of the present invention is to provide a lit for an inflatable bag or cushion type retaining device that offers a wider choice of materials that can be used to facilitate its decoration.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a cover for an inflatable bag or cushion type retaining device that is possibly re-usable and  
15 that enables the destruction of the cover after the device has been triggered to be avoided.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a cover for an inflatable bag or cushion type retaining device that is lighter, the weight being divided by as much as 4, thus making it possible to reduce the inertia and/or  
20 stresses set up and to re-dimension the cover holding devices so that they are lighter and less expensive.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a cover for an inflatable bag or cushion type retaining device that contributes to the acoustic insulation of the vehicle equipped therewith.

25 Another object of the present invention is to provide a cover for an inflatable bag or cushion type retaining device providing, directly or indirectly, a trim or covering for the bodywork of the vehicle equipped therewith.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will emerge in the course of the description that follows, which is given only by way of  
30 illustration and is not intended to limit same.

09170139.10393

The present invention relates, in the first place, to a cover for an inflatable bag or cushion type retaining device, in particular a lateral one, including at least a body, means for retaining the said body and means for fixing the said body, directly or indirectly, to the bodywork of a vehicle,

5 characterised by the fact that :

- the body of the said cover is constituted by at least two layers, namely :

- a layer permitting the shapping and the self-maintaining of the said cover ;

10 - a layer allowing the said fixing means to be attached to the said body ;

- the said fixing means are designed to be added on and capable of giving way under the action of the retaining device when it is triggered, so as to enable the said cover to open without the said body tearing.

15 The invention also relates to an item of inside trim for a vehicle, including :

- a bodywork element having a housing receiving an inflatable bag or cushion type retaining device ;

- a cover as described above covering the said housing.

20 The invention will be more readily understood upon studying the following description accompanied by the annexed drawings, which form an integral part thereof, and wherein :

- figure 1 is a lateral cross-sectional view illustrating an exemplary form of embodiment of the cover according to the invention installed in the

25 area of a bottom runner of a vehicle ;

- figure 2 is a detailed view of the cover shown in figure 1 above ;

- figure 3 is a front view corresponding to figure 1 above ;

- figure 4 is a detailed view of the zone marked IV in figure 1 above.

The present invention relates to a cover for an inflatable bag or

30 cushion type retaining device, in particular a lateral one.



However, although more especially intended for such applications, it can also be used for inflatable bag or cushion type retaining devices located in other parts of the vehicle, such as, for example, the dashboard or a seat.

As shown in figure 1, cover 1 according to the invention includes at least a body 2, means 3 for retaining the said body 2 and means 4 for fixing the said body 2 to the bodywork 5 of a vehicle.

It thus enables an inflatable bag or cushion type retaining device, diagrammatically illustrated in dotted lines, to be concealed, at least partially.

According to a first form of embodiment, body 2 is fixed directly to the bodywork 5. According to another form of embodiment, the said body 2 is fixed indirectly to the said bodywork 5, in particular, as described in greater detail below, via a distance piece 7.

So as to enable the said cover 1 to open, and thus permit the deployment of retaining device 6 in the passenger compartment of the vehicle, the said fixing means 4 are designed to be capable of giving way under the action of the said retaining device 6 when it is triggered.

As the said cover 1 is removably fixed to bodywork 5, it can thus be moved away, in particular in the direction of arrow 20, without either tearing of the said body 2 or damage thereto. If so wished, it can then be re-used.

This being the case, the said retaining means 3 make it possible to prevent the said cover 1 from becoming a projectile when the said retaining device 6 is triggered by keeping it connected, for example, to the said bodywork 5.

Furthermore, as shown in figure 2, the said fixing means 4 are designed to be added on to body 2 and the latter, which is designed to be multi-layer, is constituted by at least a layer 8 permitting the shapping and self-maintaining of the said cover 1, and by a layer 9 allowing the said fixing means 4 to be attached to the said body 2.

Cover 1 can thus define, for example, a plane or shaped piece, having hollows and/or protuberances enabling its profile to fit that of the bodywork 5

According to one exemplary form of embodiment of the invention, the said body 2 further includes an embellishing sheet 10, intended, in particular, to be orientated towards the passenger compartment. It is constituted, for example, by a woven, non-woven, knitted or calendered synthetic material or by leather.

10 It is constituted, for example, by a thermoformable synthetic cellular material, in particular a thermoplastic or semi-thermoplastic material such as polyolefins. It may possibly take the form of a foam.

It thus enables the risks of fragmentation of cover 1 under the thrust of retaining device 6 when it expands to be reduced.

The said fixing means 4 are constituted, in particular, by two elements, 11a, 11b, capable of being rendered integral with, and of being detached from, one another, one of them, 11a, being secured to the said body 2 and the other, 11b, being designed to be capable of being secured, directly or indirectly, to the said bodywork 5.

Fixing means 4, for example formed by strips, are provided, in particular, in the vicinity of the edges of the said body 2, on a part of its periphery, as illustrated by the dashed line shading in figure 3.

The said cover 1 is, for example, substantially quadrangular and fixing means 4 are then disposed on three of its sides.

As to retaining means 3, they can also be provided, partially, on the periphery of the said body 2, in particular in a manner complementary to that  
5 of the said fixing means 4.

According to the example mentioned earlier, retaining means 3 are located on one of the sides, in particular on the remaining one.

Referring again to figures 1 and 2, it will be noted that the said retaining means 3 are constituted, for example, in the mass of the said body  
10 2 by a thin portion 12, provided along one of its edges, 13, capable of being permanently fixed, directly or indirectly, to the said bodywork 5 to constitute a hinge.

The said thin portion 12 has, for example, a thickness in the order of one tenth of the mean thickness of the rest of the said body 2. It is attached,  
15 in particular, by riveting to the said bodywork 5 and/or to an element built onto to the latter, such as the said distance piece 7.

According to another form of embodiment, not illustrated, the said retaining means 3 are constituted, for example, by Velcro type elements, the surface bonding strength of which is greater than that of those used as fixing  
20 means 4.

The present invention also relates to an item of inside trim for a vehicle including a bodywork element 5, having a housing 14 receiving an inflatable bag or cushion type retaining device, and a cover 1, as described above, covering the said housing 14.

25 The said item of trim is provided, for example, in the are of the windscreen posts, the front and/or rear bottom runners, the upper central support and/or the rear quarter.

As mentioned earlier, it possibly further includes a distance piece 7 resting in the said housing 14 at one, 7a, of its ends and co-operating, at  
30 least partially, with the said fixing means 4, at the other end, 7b.

The said distance piece 7 is provided, in particular, over the entire contour of housing 14 and thus constitutes, for example, a cavity inside which the said retaining device 6 is provided..

End 7b of the said distance piece 7 co-operating with the said fixing means 4 has, for example, a shoulder 15 on which the said retaining means 3 and/or the said element 11b of the said fixing means 4, such as, for example, one of the Velcro strips, is/are secured.

The said fixing means 4 are provided, for example, slightly back from the edges of the said body 2, thus leaving the latter free and unfixed, at the very least over a portion of the contour of the said cover 1.

In this connection, as illustrated in detail in figure 4, the edge of the said cover 1 possibly has a formed zone 16 for co-operating with a facing formed zone 17 on the said bodywork element 5 or one of its trim or covering elements located in the vicinity of the said housing 14.

It thus enables a clear interface to be defined in the area of the contour of the said cover 1. The said formed zones are constituted, in particular, by facing grooves and/or flat portions. They can also consist, as shown, of a rounded portion 18, provided on the said body 2 and co-operating with a groove 19 provided in the said bodywork element 5.

It should further be noted that the use of a layer of foam based material enables such a rounded portion 18 to be defined.

The said inflatable bag or cushion type retaining device and/or thin hinge-forming portion 12 are provided, for example, at a lower portion of the said housing 14.

By way of example, the said body 2 is obtained using a process according to which embellishing sheet 10 is adhered to the formation and maintaining layer 8, in particular by flame treatment or gluing, the said layer 9 enabling fixing means 4 to be attached also being placed on the said layer 8 to form a complex.

The said fixing means 4 are added on, in particular, by gluing or sewing.

Other forms of embodiment, within the grasp of a man of the art, could of course, have been contemplated without thereby departing from the scope of the invention.

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# CLAIMS

1. Cover (1) for an inflatable bag or cushion type retaining device (6), in particular a lateral one, including at least a body (2), means (3) for retaining the said body (2) and means (4) for fixing the said body (2), directly or indirectly, to the bodywork (5) of a vehicle, characterised by the fact that :
  - the body (2) of the said cover (1) is constituted by at least two layers, namely :
    - a layer (8) permitting the shapping and the self-maintaining of the said cover (2);
    - a layer (9) allowing the said fixing means (4) to be attached to the said body (2) ;
    - the said fixing means (4) are designed to be added on and capable of giving way under the action of the retaining device (6) when it is triggered, so as to enable the said cover (1) to open without the said body (2) tearing.
2. Cover according to claim 1, in which the said body (2) further includes an embellishment sheet (10).
3. Cover according to claim 1, in which the said layer (8) permitting formation is constituted by a thermoformable synthetic cellular material.
4. Cover according to claim 1, in which the said fixing means (4) are constituted by two elements (11a, 11b), capable of being rendered integral with, and of being detached from, one another, one of them (11a) being secured to the said body (2) and the other (11b) being designed to be capable of being secured, directly or indirectly, to the said bodywork (5).
5. Cover according to claim 4, in which the said fixing means (4) are constituted by elements (11a, 11b) of the Velcro type.
6. Cover according to claim 1, in which the said fixing means (4) are provided in the vicinity of the edges of the said body (2) on a portion of its periphery.
7. Cover according to claim 1, in which the said retaining means (3) are constituted in the mass of the said body (2) by a thin portion (12),

provided along one of its edges (13) capable of being permanently fixed, directly or indirectly, to the said bodywork (5) to constitute a hinge.

8. Inside trim for a vehicle, including :

- a bodywork element (5) having a housing (14) receiving an inflatable

5 bag or cushion type retaining device (6);

- a cover (1), according to claim 1, covering the said housing.(14).

9. Inside trim according to claim 8, further including a distance piece (7) resting in the said housing (14) at one (7a) of its ends and co-operating, at least partially, with the said fixing means 4, at the other end (7b)

10 10. Inside trim according to claim 8, in which the edge of the said cover (1 ) has a formed zone (16) for co-operating with a facing formed zone (17) on the said bodywork element (5) or one of its elements of trim located in the vicinity of the said housing (14).

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to a cover (1) for an inflatable bag or cushion type retaining device (6), in particular a lateral one, including at least a body (2), means (3) for retaining the said body (2) and means (4) for fixing  
5 the said body (2), directly or indirectly, to the bodywork (5) of a vehicle.

According to the invention :

- the body (2) of the said cover (1) is constituted by at least two layers,  
namely :

- a layer (8) permitting the shapping and the self-maintaining of  
10 the said cover (2);

- a layer (9) allowing the said fixing means (4) to be attached to  
the said body (2) ;

- the said fixing means (4) are designed to be added on and capable  
of giving way under the action of the retaining device (6) when it is triggered,  
15 so as to enable the said cover (1) to open without the said body (2) tearing.

The present invention also relates to an item of inside trim for a  
vehicle including such a cover (1).

Figure 1.

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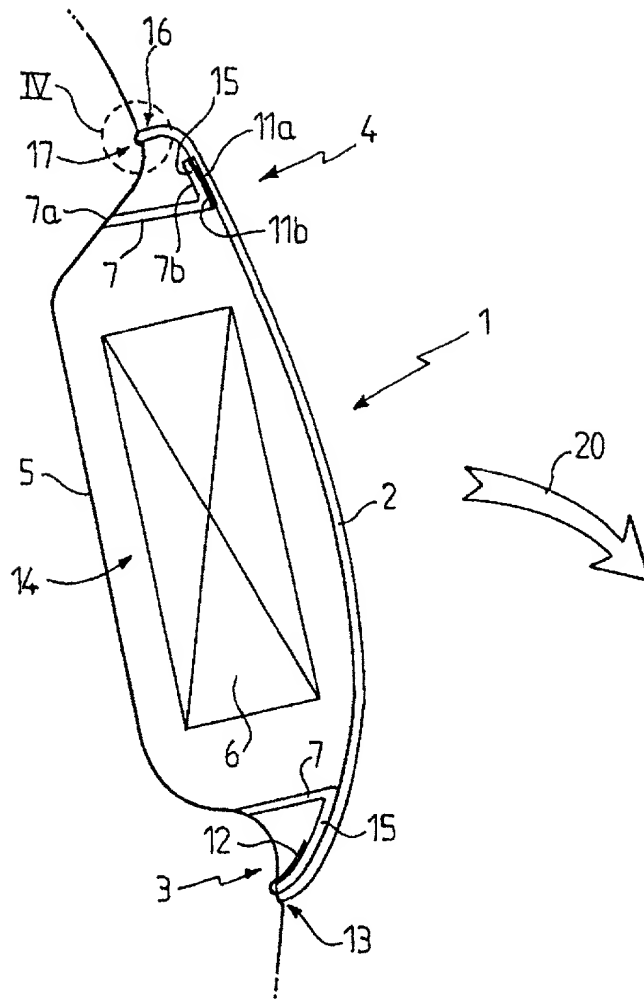


FIG. 1

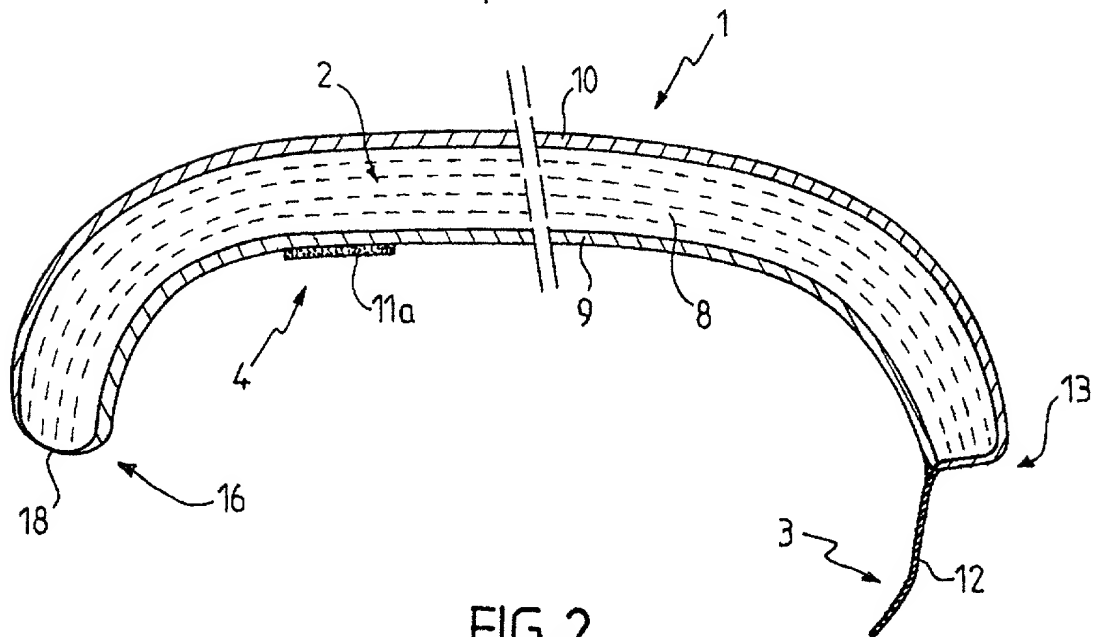


FIG. 2

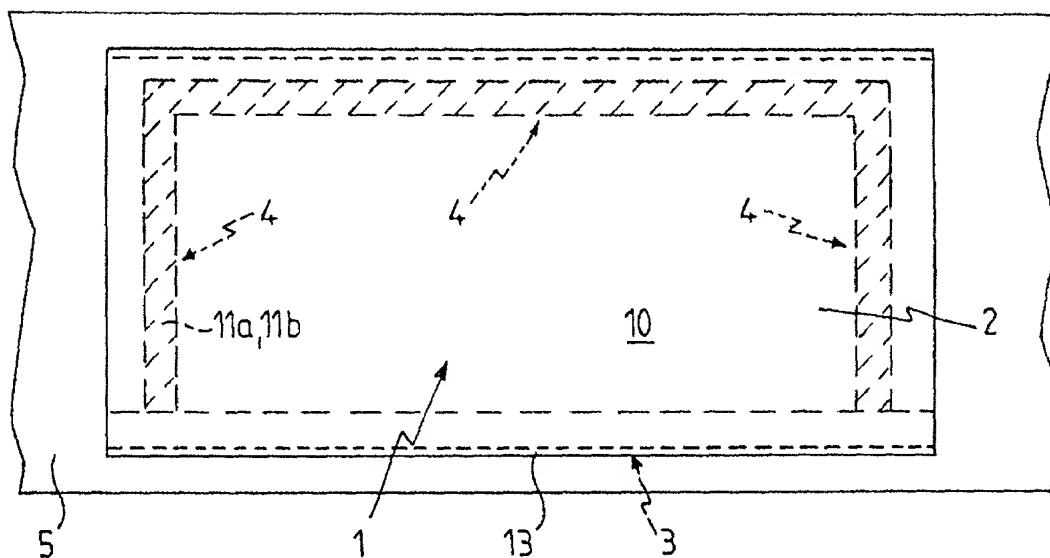


FIG. 3

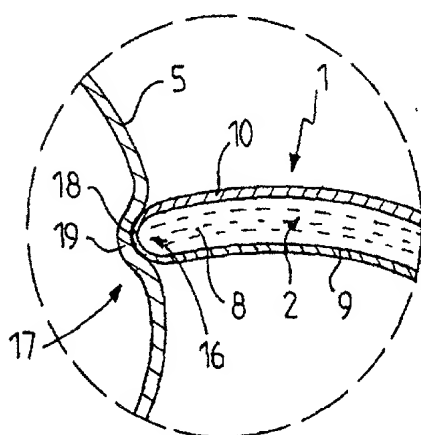


FIG. 4